

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 September 2017

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SEDIMENT EROSION CONTROL PLAN REQUIREMENTS- UPDATE AND CLARIFICATION

On 8 June 2015, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted a Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR), as required by Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0030-R1 (Order). The SDEAR was partially approved on 14 August 2015. On 2 June 2016, the Coalition submitted a Work Plan for addressing potential sediment discharges from parcels in proximity to water bodies that were not identified in the SDEAR. This Work Plan, which was a requirement of the SDEAR conditional approval, was approved on 10 August 2016.

This letter serves to clarify Coalition and Member requirements regarding Sediment and Erosion Control Plans (SECP).

Item 1- Online or Distance Learning SECP Grower Self-Certification Training

Currently, a Member may self-certify his SECP if the Member attends and passes an in-person SECP Grower Self-Certification Training. The Coalition has expressed interest in developing a more cost-effective means for the SECP Grower Self-Certification Training, such as an online training course. The Central Valley Water Board is willing to consider distance learning options as long as the Executive Office concurs that the program provides the necessary training for sediment and erosion control plan development (Order Section VII.C). This letter is similar to my 24 July 2015 letter clarifying the acceptance of online attendance for third-party outreach events, conditioned on Order compliance. In order to allow time for development of the online training, the deadline for SECP certification has been extended as described in Item 2 below.

Item 2- Extension of SECP Certification Deadline

The certification deadline for Member parcels requiring a certified SECP on or before 31 December 2017 has been extended to **1 February 2018**. These parcels must have a SECP developed and implemented by the date stated in Table 1, but the Member has until **1 February 2018** to certify the SECP. The certification deadline for Member parcels requiring a certified SECP after 1 February 2018 has not been extended. These due dates are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. SECP Deadlines

Member Parcels Requiring SECP	Final Date for SECP Development and Implementation.	Final Date for SECP Certification
Member parcels where a grower self-reported in a Farm Evaluation Survey the potential to discharge sediment to surface water.	12 February 2016	1 February 2018
Member parcels located in a region where the rate of erosion is at or above 5 tons/acre/year, based on the RUSLE model.	12 February 2016	1 February 2018
Member parcels along large tributaries.	3 March 2017	1 February 2018
Member parcels along secondary tributaries.	31 December 2017	1 February 2018
Member parcels along all other waterbodies.	31 December 2018	31 December 2018

Item 3- SECP Requirement Exemptions

The Central Valley Water Board and the Coalition have had several discussions regarding possible exemptions to the original SECP requirements. Such discussions have included irrigated pasture and cover crop validation. The Central Valley Water Board is amenable to considering exemptions if the Coalition can sufficiently document that Member parcels do not have the potential to discharge sediment that may degrade surface waters or may cause a violation of an applicable water quality objective.

The Coalition has until **30 November 2017** to formally propose exemption(s) for parcels along secondary tributaries. This provides Water Board staff with a month to evaluate if there is the adequate document to support recommending approval of the proposed exemption(s). Similarly, the Coalition has until **31 October 2018** to formally propose exemptions for parcels along all other waterbodies (not already addressed by prior efforts). Member parcels that are currently required to have a SECP (parcels identified by the Farm Evaluation, RUSLE model, and along large tributaries) may also qualify for approved exemptions.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Rebecca Tabor at rebecca.tabor@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 226-3458.

Original Signed by

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

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